

Dear Naomi

1. It is not just the parking of coaches it is also the parking of cars. They park on the side of the road to avoid N.T. parking fees. In the 12 years I have lived here I have seen what were nice grass banks worn it into raw earth in many places, especially during this last wet winter. Although the land is owned by the National Trust, I believe the road and edges are owned by the council and neither are taking action over it. To be fair, the National Trust has little power.

2. I have been a volunteer in the Visitor Centre for a number of years and live in East Dean. I have seen the marked deterioration of the banks all the way along the road and also the damage to the paths up to Beachy Head. More than half our visitors are foreign tourists and do not understand which side of the road to walk for safety when approaching Birling Gap. Each journey I give lifts to people because of the danger on the road, especially as cars around very fast.

3. Because of unfortunate road accidents or occasional suicide attempts, the problem may be that police or a fire engine would not be able to get up there because of the road possibly being blocked by a coach or cars. I remember we had a problem a few years back on a firework night, when the emergency services couldn't get through because of numerous cars.

4. I feel that possibly the answer to the problem may be about who is going to enforce no parking on the grass verges. Not only does it cause a problem because walkers have to come out into the road and cannot use the path, which is now non-existent anyway, but it is irreversibly damaging nature. The only way is to put up wooden post along the road out of East Dean, which will unsightly would solve the problem. I hope there is a better alternative.

Received 15/04/26

Hi Naomi

Thank you so much for reaching out regarding the issues about the traffic in and around the East Dean and Beachy Head roads.

I feel very strongly about these issues. I have a friend who was parking at Beachy Head when a speeding motorcyclist lost control around the bends and crashed into her car nearly causing a serious injury to her and unfortunately the rider was fatally injured. She tried in vain to save his life. She obviously has been traumatised by this and is being treated for PTSD and suffers extreme anxiety and guilt as a result. After taking her petition to the council it has been decided that not a great deal will change in regards to making changes to safety on this road.

I live in East Dean and most evenings from approximately 9pm until 2am speeding cars turning into and out of Gilbert's Drive. This is worse at weekends The noise keeps us awake and am fearful of the possible serious consequences of this antisocial driving.

I do hope that someone will take this issue seriously and that something can be done to protect not just the residents but also the drivers.

Please do contact me if you require further information.

Thank you again for listening and taking notice of the community's concerns.

15 April 2025

Dear Councillor Baker,

I am writing to formally lodge a complaint regarding the ongoing failure to enforce the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) along East Dean Road, Gilberts Drive, and Birling Gap Road. These roads are now frequently associated with illegal racing, reckless speeding, and deliberate noise pollution — activities that have transformed this once-peaceful part of the South Downs into a notorious hotspot for dangerous and antisocial vehicle use.

This area has become widely known within Sussex as a magnet for thrill-seeking drivers and motorcyclists, particularly during weekends and holidays. The resulting high levels of noise and unsafe driving conditions are not only a constant source of distress for residents but also pose a very real risk to life. Serious accidents — including fatalities — have occurred along this stretch between Seaford and Eastbourne.

The impact on public health must not be understated. Sustained exposure to excessive engine noise is strongly linked to elevated blood pressure, stress, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and increased risk of heart disease. This is a violation not only of the peace but of the right to a healthy and safe living environment.

Despite the existence of the PSPO, enforcement is either absent or ineffective. This lack of visible deterrent has emboldened offenders and left the community feeling vulnerable and ignored. Meanwhile, many other councils across the country are deploying proven technologies — such as **noise cameras, ANPR (automatic number plate recognition), and average-speed cameras** — to great effect in combating the very issues we are facing here.

It is also worth noting that these technologies not only improve safety but can generate substantial revenue through fines for PSPO breaches. This income could be reinvested into local services, road safety improvements, or further enforcement efforts. The failure to take advantage of this opportunity represents a missed benefit for both community wellbeing and council resources.

In light of the above, I respectfully urge the Parish Council to:

1. Recognise the scale and urgency of the issues caused by vehicle noise and speeding in this area.
2. Collaborate with Wealden District Council and Sussex Police to install appropriate enforcement and monitoring technologies.
3. Push for immediate weekend patrols or mobile enforcement presence during high-risk times.
4. Ensure transparency by providing residents with a public update on what enforcement has taken place and what is planned.

I would appreciate a formal written response outlining how the Council intends to address these matters.

Received 30/04/26

I would like to register my unhappiness with the motor bike road noise in our area.

I live in the BN20 0HB area and last Sunday afternoon the level of noise must have exceeded any sensible person's level of comfort.

I think it was mostly motor bikes.

I saw your comments on Facebook and I just thought I would get in touch.